

### **ABSTRACT**

The master/slave arbitration process includes a voting process that allows cards within  
5 the system to use voting to determine the health of each of the individual cards. The voting  
process thereby allows the system to determine whether a bad card is present and to make  
sure that a bad card has not been selected to be the master card for the system. By preventing  
a bad or malfunctioning card from being selected as the master, the systems and methods  
described herein guard against a system failure that may arise from appointing a  
10 malfunctioning card as the master card.